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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/674,809	ARAI, AKIRA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hoan H. Tran	2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 11/10/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims 10 and 11, line 3, "5" has been deleted.
- Claims 23-26 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 2-8, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16-22 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 2 and 4-8

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed at a predetermined timing in a non-print state; wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

Claims 3 and 4-8

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed at a predetermined timing in a non-print state; wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when an image exposure to an image support is off.

Art Unit: 2852

Claim 10

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed before image formation operation; wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

Claim 11

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed before image formation operation; wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when an image exposure to an image support is off.

Claim 13

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed each time development units installed in the rotary developing unit are switched; wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

Claim 14

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming apparatus comprising a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed each time development units installed in the rotary developing unit are switched; wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when an image exposure to an image support is off.

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Claims 16 and 18-22

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming method comprising the steps of performing an idle operation of a developer support to decrease a density unevenness caused depending on a standing state of a developing chamber portion and an exposure portion of the developer support; wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

Claims 17 and 18-22

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an image forming method comprising the steps of performing an idle operation of a developer support to decrease a density unevenness caused depending on a standing state of a developing chamber portion and an exposure portion of the developer support; wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when the image exposure to an image support is off.

Prior Art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Hama et al. [6,909,858] disclose an image forming apparatus having a rotary developing unit.

Contact Information

Art Unit: 2852

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Arthur Grimley can be reached at (571) 272-2136. The central office fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

HHT
Jan. 23, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hoan Tran'.

**HOAN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**



Appl. No. 10/674,809
Docket No. Q77797
Amdt. Dated Nov. 10, 2005
Reply to Office action of Aug 10, 2005
Replacement Sheet

Approved
US
01/23/06

FIG. 1

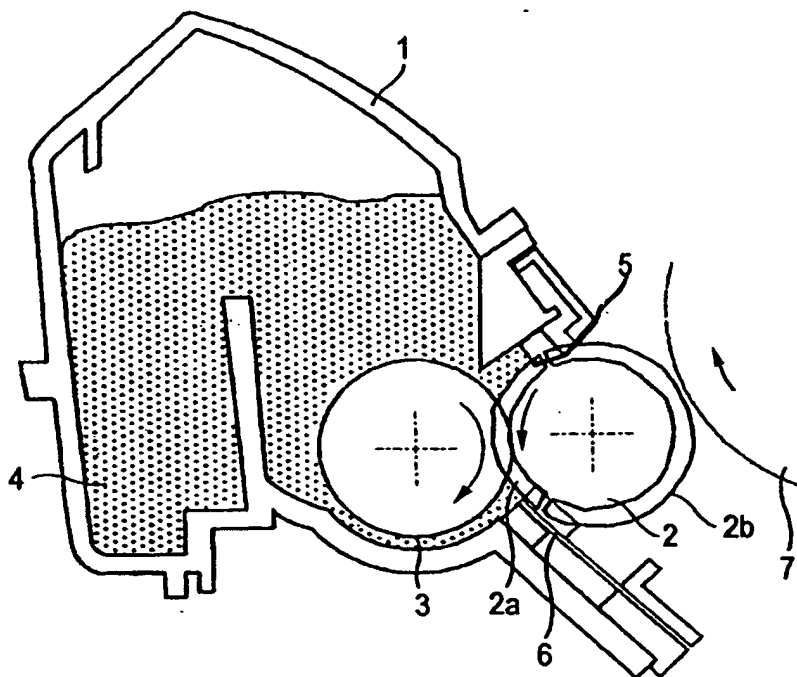


FIG. 2

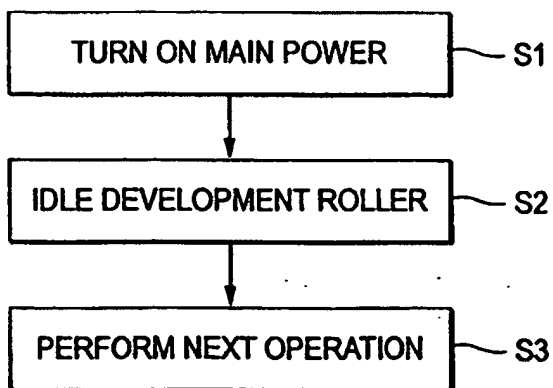


FIG. 3

